

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CHURCH

ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

A PARISH OF THE DIOCESE OF NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

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Department of
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
ORTHODOX CHURCH IN AMERICA

When Only Great Courage Will Do

During the week of March 16 we remember two people who showed great courage. One was a young woman, and the other was an old man.

The young woman, commemorated on March 22, is Drosida (or Drosis), the daughter of the emperor Trajan. He was a cruel enemy of Christians, and enacted laws forbidding people to assemble secretly. These laws were aimed at Christian gatherings for worship, even though there was nothing subversive in their gatherings. His prisons and methods of punishment were known for their brutality, and many Christians met painful, humiliating deaths during his reign. After death their bodies were further degraded by being left unburied and visible to the public, as a warning to others who might think of following their way of life.

But the emperor's daughter Drosida had become friends with a group of young Christian women who undertook a dangerous and admirable ministry. Under cover of night they gathered the bodies of these martyrs and gave them a proper burial, first anointing them with oils and spices and then wrapping them in the customary shrouds. Drosida joined them in this furtive, courageous work. Though she had not yet been baptized, she lived as a Christian.

Their activity went unnoticed for a time, but finally became known. The young women were apprehended, interrogated, and finally – with the exception of Dressed – executed by being thrown into huge furnaces used for melting copper. She, at the order of the emperor, was held in the imperial chambers. Trajan hoped his child would give up her allegiance to this new faith.

Intercessory Prayers

We pray for all our fellow parishioners, but we pray especially for those who are incapable of being with us in church. Among them are:

Michael, Mary and Max Bakaletz, Genevieve Bobenko, Pauline Bodnar, Nancy Filak, Mary Hadginske, Helen Kurnewitz, Margaret Lawler, Kathleen Lazorzcyk, Emil Mikulik, MaryAnn Rabakozi, Helen Rahnefeld, Anatoly & Anna Rozanovich, Nadia Sojka, Eva Stashitsky, Ann Velebir.

But she did not do such thing. The courage of her friends had already convinced her to join them as a martyr for Christ. She baptized herself with oil and water so as to be worthy to meet the Lord. Then she made her escape, and approached the furnaces. She threw herself into one of them, and gave up her life.

During this week we read the seventh and eighth chapters of Genesis, which tell the story of Noah and the ark. We all know the familiar details of the story – the building of the vessel, the pairs of animals, the days on the water, and the dove bringing an olive leaf as a sign that the waters are finally subsiding.

But we don't think as often, perhaps, of the courage shown by this old man. He followed God's command to build the ark and assemble his family and the animals on it. But that was really the easy part. What must it have been like for Noah, watching as the waters rose up over the whole earth, even the mountains, and every living thing was blotted out? He needed great courage to face such momentous destruction.

Proverbs 10:25 says that "when the tempest passes, the wicked is no more, but the righteous is established forever." The lives of Drosida and Noah became "tempestuous" in different ways, but their courage ensures that they are established forever.

Schedule of Services

(continued from previous page)

FRIDAY, MARCH 21

6:30pm - Akathist to Jesus Christ with Trisagion Memorial Service

SATURDAY, MARCH 22 - MEMORIAL SATURDAY

5:30pm - Great Vespers

SUNDAY, MARCH 23 - SUNDAY OF THE CROSS

9:00am - Divine Liturgy of St. Basil the Great

Heartfelt Greetings

Happy 50th Wedding Anniversary to **Bob & Betty Czech** (Mar 14), happy birthday to **Nicholas Kovalycsik** (Mar 20), and **Genevieve Bobenko** (Mar 22). May God grant all of you good health and happiness for Many Years! Mnohaja Lita!

Announcements

◆ **Confessions** can be heard after any Vespers or Akathist service and before the Liturgy of Pre-Sanctified Gifts (beginning at 6:00 p.m.). They can also be heard before Divine Liturgy from 8:30 to 8:50am; however, if you plan to come then, please let Father know the day before. Parish Confessions is scheduled for **Saturday, April 5** from **1:30 to 3:00p.m.** Please arrive by 2:30 p.m.

◆ During Lent, Father will be visiting our home-bound parishioners who are on his list to receive the Sacraments. If you (or someone you know) have not been visited in the past and need to receive the Sacraments at home/residence, please call the Rectory to make arrangements.

◆ **NJ Deanery Mission Vespers** tonight will be at St. Gregory Palamas Church in Glen Gardner at **6:00pm**. His Grace Bishop Michael will be main celebrant and homilist.

◆ Next joint **Mission Pre-Sanctified Liturgies:**
Mar. 19, 6:30pm - Holy Apostles Church in Saddle Brook
Apr. 2, 9:00am - Ss. Peter & Paul Church in Passaic
Apr. 9, 6:30pm - Holy Assumption Church in Clifton



March 16, 2014

SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

St. Gregory Palamas

- **8:50am** – Hours
- **9:00am** – Divine Liturgy of St. Basil
Epistle: Heb. 1:10-2:3
Heb. 7:26-8:2 (Saint)
Gospel: Mk. 2:1-12
Jn. 10:9-16 (Saint)
- **Panikhida** in memory of **Olga Brinko**, offered by her family on the 40th day of her Repose.
- **Fellowship** – everyone is invited for Coffee Hour following the Divine Liturgy

Schedule of Services

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 19

6:30pm - Joint Pre-Sanctified Liturgy at the Holy Apostles Church in Saddle Brook

(continued on the next page)